Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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FOI/34580

11 August 2025

Hospital Benchmarking Exercise: Completion for Sterile Services

As part of a benchmarking exercise, the hospital wishes to assess its resources for staffing and Decontamination equipment with comparable Decontamination Units.

To ensure relevance and accuracy, all data should reflect the period from **01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**.

Decontamination Site Name/Location	Central decontamination unit RVH

Activity

Please indicate the total number of items processed during the period 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025?

Activity	**Number Processed**
Trays	119,054
Supplementary (bagged items) (units)	48,963
Ward Packs	11,321
Total Instruments processed (*if known*)	
(Please list any other activities)	
Scopes (rigid)	9,335

Decontamination Machinery

Please indicate decontamination machinery utilised.

Ultrasonics					
Quantity	**Manufacturer**	**Model Ref**	**Thermal Disinfection (Yes / No)**	**Chemistry Used**	**pH**
7	Medisafe	sisa	yes	yes	7-9
Washers Disinfectors					
Quantity	**Manufacturer**	**Model Ref**	**Max Std. DIN Capacity**	**Chemistry Used**	**pH**
12	Belimed	WD290	15 Trays	Dr Weigert MediClean forte	10.4-10.8

Heat-Sealers

Quantity	Manufacturer	Model Ref
7	HAWO	HAWO HM3010 heat sealer

Sterilizers			
Quantity	**Manufacturer**	**Model Ref**	**Chamber Capacity**
9	Gettinge	GSS610H	600 litres

Automatic Endoscope Re-processor		
Quantity	**Manufacturer**	**Model Ref**
N/A		

Other Decontamination / Testing Machinery Used			
Quantity	**Manufacturer**	**Model Ref**	**Used For**
N/A			

Washer Disinfector Cycle Parameters

Please indicate Washer Disinfector Cycle parameters in use, if more than one type of cycle please specify use.

From a live cycle:

Wash Cycle Used for -	**P 1 cycle (live cycle)**		
Stage / Phase	**Time**	**Set time/Hold Temperature**	**Water Type**
Pre-Wash	11:09:27	4minutes and 41 seconds / **22.8C**	RO Water
Detergent Wash	11:15:36	9 minutes / **35.2C**	RO Water
Rinse#1	11:27:35	2 minutes and 44 seconds / **69.2 C**	RO Water
Rinse#2	11:31:23	1 minute and 44 seconds / **71.3C**	RO Water
Thermal Rinse (Disinfection)	11:34:09	2 minutes and 54 seconds / **72.9C**	RO Water
			Air Type *(Filtered, Medical Grade Air, Other)*
Drying	11:39:44	**93.2C**	
Any other Stages / Phases			

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Wash Cycle Used for -	**Da Vinci cycle**		
Stage / Phase	**Time**	**Set time /Hold Temperature**	**Water Type**
Pre-Wash	22:20:09	4 minutes and 44 seconds / **25.6C**	
Detergent Wash	22:26:24	10 minutes and 10 seconds / **38.2C**	
Rinse#1	23:11:14	2 minutes and 41 seconds / **69.0C**	
Rinse#2	23:11:14	2 minutes and 41 seconds / **70.5C**	
Thermal Rinse (Disinfection)	23:14:54	2 minutes and 53 seconds / **72.7C**	
			Air Type *(Filtered, Medical Grade Air, Other)*
Drying	23:20:15	**93.2C**	
Any other Stages / Phases			
Wash Cycle Used for -	**N/A**		
Stage / Phase	**Time**	**Set/Hold Temperature**	**Water Type**
Pre-Wash			
Detergent Wash			
Rinse#1			
Rinse#2			
Thermal Rinse (Disinfection)			
			Air Type *(Filtered, Medical Grade Air, Other)*
Drying			
Any other Stages / Phases			

Wash Cycle Used for -	**N/A**		
Stage / Phase	**Time**	**Set/Hold Temperature**	**Water Type**
Pre-Wash			
Detergent Wash			
Rinse#1			
Rinse#2			
Thermal Rinse (Disinfection)			

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			Air Type *(Filtered, Medical Grade Air, Other)*
Drying			
Any other Stages / Phases			

Workforce

Please indicate personnel employed at decontamination unit, indicating job title, banding / grade and FTE budgeted for each post?

Operational Structure		
Job Title	**Banding / Grade**	**FTE in Post**
Learning and Development lead	7	<5
Quality and governance	7	<5
Deputy Operations manager	6	<5
Learning and Development manager	6	<5
Production manager	5	<5
System administrator	5	<5
SATO (Supervisors)	4	17.6
Admin	3	<5
ATO	3	29.68
ATO	2	26

N.B. We are not able to provide the information requested. Due to low numbers of <5 would reduce numbers to discoverable limits, we consider that individuals could be identified and disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under FOI Act Section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the FOI Act.

Productivity

Please outline any productivity targets or metrics used to assess staff involved in medical device reprocessing. For example, do you measure trays processed per person either *annually, monthly or by shift*, or per hour? Are the specific productivity expectation levels for the Wash Area or IAP (Clean) Room? If alternative metrics are used, please describe them.

We provide a service that can vary depending on department needs. We compile a priority list that service users request on a daily basis and in line with our KPI strive to achieve a 24 hour turnaround for all priority items and 72 hour turnaround
Traceability system can be used to review production output.

Please describe expected tray turnaround time from receipt to despatch – 24-72 hours.

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Performance

Please describe any targets or measurements used to calculate unit performance. For instance, how is tray accuracy / errors measured - *percentage of errors in relation to total production, errors per 1000 trays*? If alternative metrics are used, please describe them.

Data is collected for non-conformances and rework. DATIX incident reporting system is used to report non-compliance in trays. Staff will be identified who packed or washed a non-compliant tray and training needs assessed if applicable.

Adherence to Instruction for Use (IFU's)

IFU's are idealised reprocessing conditions. When a unit's decontamination equipment cannot meet or is considered impractical, to meet specific IFU parameters - such as detergent type, duration or temperatures. What assessment is made regarding how / if device can be safely reprocessed. If any internal forms, SOP's or waivers are used if these could be supplied?

No products are introduced into our service without first undergoing a thorough review via our Pre-Purchase Questionnaire. This process ensures that each item meets clearly defined parameters for compatibility with our decontamination procedures, including requirements for washing, autoclaving, approved detergents, operating temperatures, and overall material suitability. This step is critical in safeguarding our processes, maintaining compliance, and ensuring patient safety. IFU, certificate of stainless steel conformity, insurance and certificate of decontamination status is also required for all new and loan equipment.